FaithWeaver®
Weaving Faith Into Families

Winter 2012-2013

Family Connect®

The Lessons

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- ***Lesson 11:*** Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus • Luke 9:28-36 ..... *Week of February 10, 2013*
- ***Lesson 12:*** Jesus Teaches About Rewards • Luke 6:17-26 ..... *Week of February 17, 2013*
- ***Lesson 13:*** Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies • Luke 6:27-38 ..... *Week of February 24, 2013*
- **Credits**
- **Weekly Bible Lessons**

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How to Use FamilyConnect®

Recently the Minneapolis-based nonprofit Search Institute published research showing that people are more likely to grow in their faith when their families put faith into practice at home. According to the Search Institute, "Four family practices are particularly important for helping young people grow in faith (both in childhood and adolescence): talking about faith with your mother; talking about faith with your father; having family devotions or prayer; and doing family projects to help other people."

FaithWeaver FamilyConnect® is designed around these family practices and was created to help you equip families to grow in their faith. FamilyConnect gives busy families an easy-to-use idea to start conversations about faith at least once during the week. These weekly pages reinforce what's being learned in FaithWeaver® Sunday school, and they're a great way to keep families connected—just e-mail the pages or print them out!

Quick Tips

- Create an e-mail sign-up sheet for parents to fill out and return, if you don't already have one.
- In your e-mail software, create a distribution list of parents' e-mail addresses.
- Put the distribution list (or separate names) in the BCC field to avoid exposing e-mail addresses to all recipients.
- Set up a weekly reminder to send out the FaithWeaver FamilyConnect PDFs to parents.
- Consider creating a standard e-mail cover letter to send out weekly, or copy and paste the following sample:

> **Dear Parent,**
> **Thank you for your child's participation in our Sunday school program. Attached you'll find a simple tip to help you start a faith conversation with your child sometime during the week. You are your family's faith weaver, and your actions and words are having a tremendous impact on your child's faith! Thanks for all you do.**

- Choose one of these two quick ways to attach the PDF files on the CD to an e-mail:

Traditional Navigation
If you are comfortable navigating through the files and folders on your computer, you can (1) leave the files on the CD, and attach each file directly from the CD to an e-mail or (2) copy all of the files to a location on your hard drive, and then attach them to your e-mails from that location. The files will be named FCWinter2012Lesson1, FCWinter2012Lesson2, and so.

CD Menu
When you put the CD in your computer, a menu will open with selections for each lesson. Click on the menu selection for the week that you wish to attach to your e-mail.

The file will open in Acrobat Reader. Click *File*. Click *Save a Copy*. Select your Desktop or other location in which to save the file. Click *Save*.

Now you can attach this file to an e-mail message. Once you have sent the e-mail, you can delete the file from your Desktop (or other location), as it now exists on the CD and in your e-mail Sent Items as an attachment.

Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming

Lesson 1

Jesus fulfilled God's promise.

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us' " (Matthew 1:22-23).

We learned this week about some of the Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ (Jeremiah 33:14-16). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell about a time someone kept an important promise to you. How did it feel for the promise to be kept? How would it have felt if the person had failed to keep the promise? Then encourage your children to talk about the need to believe in what we say to each other. Talk about ways that God's promises are trustworthy.

pray

Lord, thank you for keeping your promises to us. Help us follow through on our promises to you and to each other. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover how the world needs Jesus.

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Zechariah Prophesies About Jesus

Lesson 2

The world needs Jesus.

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

We learned this week that Zechariah prophesied about Jesus coming to save the world from sin (Luke 1:68-79). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell about a time you were confused and in need.
What did you need? Who helped you overcome your confusion and need in that situation? Then encourage your children to talk about who they go to when they need something. Talk about ways you can remember to go to Jesus the next time a need arises.

pray

Lord, we need Jesus in our lives. Please teach us to seek you every day and recognize even more our need for you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that repenting prepares us for Jesus.

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John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming

Lesson 3

Repenting prepares us for Jesus.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

We learned this week that in order to prepare our hearts for Jesus, we need to confess our sin (Luke 3:7-18). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Talk about a need to change something about the way you act or think. Explain why you need to make that change and what you plan to do to follow through on it. Then encourage your children to think of an area in their lives where they need to make a change as well. Maybe it's a change in attitude or a change in how they treat someone. Remind your kids that by repenting and changing how we think or act, we are preparing for Jesus.

pray

God, help us recognize areas in our lives that aren't pleasing to you. Show us how we can change and prepare our hearts for Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover how Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.

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The Son of God Is Born!

Lesson 4

Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

We learned this week that we celebrate Christmas because Jesus is the greatest gift of all (Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Talk about a time you were looking forward to a baby being born. What was most exciting about that time? Then discuss ways your family can focus on Jesus' birth at Christmastime. Find a way to celebrate Jesus this week that's new to you and will bring deeper meaning to the holiday, such as doing a kindness for another person, attending a special service, or spending time with someone who can celebrate with you. Or start a new Christ-centered tradition at your house. For example, after you open your presents, you might have everyone take a moment to tell why the gift of Jesus' birth is so special.

pray

God, thank you for the amazing gift of Jesus. Help us spend time thinking about what's truly important during this Christmas season. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover how Jesus is special.

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Jesus Grows Up

Lesson 5

Jesus is special.

"I and the Father are one" (John 10:30).

We learned this week that Jesus is special—because he is the Son of God, but he still chose to come to earth to die for our sin (Luke 2:39-52). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Talk to your children about what it means to you that Jesus is special. Then encourage your family members to explore what "Jesus is special" means to each of them. One of the ways to get to know the "specialness" of Jesus better is simply to spend more time with him. If your family is used to praying aloud together, perhaps at mealtimes, suggest spending time in silence together acknowledging the presence of the Savior with you. This is called contemplative prayer, and it is one way to converse with God. In this kind of prayer, it's our turn to listen to God. Let children know the purpose of the silence, but make the duration of time appropriate to their ages. You may want to start out by trying just 15 or 20 seconds of silence together.

pray

Jesus, we thank you for your amazing sacrifice for us. We want to know you more. Remind us each day to focus on you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that people who know Jesus are God's children.

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The Word Became Flesh

Lesson 6

People who know Jesus are God's children.

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

We learned this week that when we put our belief in Jesus, we gain the amazing benefit of being able to call ourselves children of God (John 1:1-18). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell your children about a favorite childhood memory. Then let each family member share a favorite memory, too. Explore the feelings behind those memories. For example, a family member might associate a favorite vacation with a sense of adventure, or a favorite book with a sense of love and comfort felt while he or she read it. Think of times God has provided those same feelings for you. Discuss ways your family can remember to think of God as a parent and rely on him.

pray

God, we thank you for allowing us to come to you as children come to their parents. We love you and ask you to teach us to rely on you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that with Jesus' help we can resist temptation.

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Satan Tempts Jesus

Lesson 7

With Jesus' help we can resist temptation.

"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18).

We learned this week that when we're faced with temptation, we can ask Jesus for strength to do what's right (Luke 4:1-13). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell about a time you felt overpowering temptation. Share honestly about the struggles you had and how you overcame the temptation. (Choose something that is age-appropriate, so children will begin to understand that temptation is something everyone faces.) Then share things that help you defeat temptation, such as praying or spending time with people who help you stay strong against temptation. Encourage family members to discuss ways to help one another with the temptations they regularly face.

pray

God, thank you for always providing a way out of temptation. This week, when we're tempted to do wrong, help us look to you for strength. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that Jesus did miracles to show us he's God.

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Jesus Performs His First Miracle

Lesson 8

Jesus did miracles to show us he is God.

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).

We learned this week that we know Jesus is God because he performed amazing miracles (John 2:1-11). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell about a time you needed a miracle. What was the situation? How did it work out? Did your faith grow or diminish as a result? Then as a family, ask Jesus to make you aware of his miraculous presence and work in your life and in the world around you each day this week. Praise him each time you recognize his hands at work.

pray God, we believe you can perform miracles. Please help us to recognize your hand at work in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that Jesus came for all people.

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Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue

Lesson 9

Jesus came for all people.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).

We learned this week that God sent Jesus to earth to die for the sins of everyone (Luke 4:14-21). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Talk about a time you felt lost or alone. Share how you felt when Jesus helped you or comforted you. What did Jesus do for you? How did you know that Jesus was helping you? Then talk about how Jesus came to earth and died for everyone's sins. Encourage each family member to talk about what it means to him or her that Jesus came for all people.

pray

God, thank you for sending Jesus to die for the sins of every person. Remind us that we're never alone because Jesus is always with us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that Jesus deserves our love and gratitude.

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Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown

Lesson 10

Jesus deserves our love and gratitude.

"Love the Lord your God will all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).

We learned this week how Jesus was rejected in his hometown and how we can receive Jesus with love and gratitude for what he has done for us (Luke 4:22-30). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Discuss a difficult situation your family has faced. Ask family members to talk about it, and then discuss how God met your needs and how you responded to God in that situation. Then challenge family members to think about how they respond to Jesus throughout an average day. At the end of each day this week, have family members share an honest assessment of how they responded to Jesus during the day. Responses might include "I was aware of Jesus' presence all day" or "I totally ignored God today." You might want to do this as a "response to Jesus" reminder several times a year.

pray

God, we're so thankful we can ask you to help us in every situation. Teach us to recognize how you're moving in our lives, and help us respond with love and gratitude. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that Jesus showed that he is God's Son.

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Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus

Lesson 11

Jesus showed that he is God's Son.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

We learned this week how the disciples had a "God Sighting" and heard God tell them that Jesus is his Son (Luke 9:28-36). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Share a "God Sighting" with your family—explain how you've seen God working in your life recently. Encourage your family members to be on the lookout for God Sightings each day this week. Every evening at a special time, have them share places they recognized God at work in their lives. God Sightings can be as simple as seeing a beautiful sunset or finding a new friend. Come up with a phrase you and your family members can use when you have God Sightings. This could be something as simple as "I see God!" or "God's here!" Help family members discover and learn to recognize that God is constantly at work in their lives.

pray

Lord, please show yourself to us. Help us recognize and know you as you move in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that our lives should focus on what's important to God.

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Jesus Teaches About Rewards

Lesson 12

Our lives should focus on what's important to God.

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things" (Colossians 3:2).

We learned this week that Jesus wants us to focus on what's important to God (Luke 6:17-26). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell about a time you didn't put God first in a situation. What happened? What was the outcome? After you share with your family members, have them each tell about a time they did something similar. Then discuss what things get in the way of your family relationships and your relationships with God. When you've discussed your ideas, brainstorm ways to make sure you give God the priority he deserves.

pray

God, there is no one like you. You deserve all our love and attention. Teach us to focus on what's important to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.

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Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies

Lesson 13

Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.

"Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31).

We learned this week that if we want others to treat us with love and respect, we need to treat them the way we want to be treated (Luke 6:27-38). Strengthen your family's faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea:

Parents: Tell a true story of a time you were surprised by an act of kindness. Talk about how that act of kindness affected you or how it changed you in some way. Then, as a family, think of someone you can surprise with an unexpected display of kindness. Maybe you can pay for someone's dinner unexpectedly, or maybe you can help someone with yardwork.

pray

God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us how to treat others. Help us treat others as we want to be treated. In Jesus' name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

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Our family talks to God about

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Sneak Peek

Don't miss next week when we discover that our Christ-like actions show we're Christians.

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Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's

Relational
Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential
What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable
The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based
Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

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2012 edition

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Thanks to our talented FamilyConnect® curriculum team!
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Weekly Bible Lessons

Winter 2009-2010	Bible Story	Scripture	Key Verse/ Infants–Kindergarten Key Verse*	Sunday School Bible Point (Grade 1–Adult)	Infants–Kindergarten Bible Point
Lesson 1 (12/2)	Prophets Foretell Jesus' Coming	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Matthew 1:22-23/ Isaiah 9:6	Jesus fulfilled God's promise.	God keeps his promises.
Lesson 2 (12/9)	Zechariah Prophesies About Jesus	Luke 1:68-79	John 3:17/ Isaiah 9:6	The world needs Jesus.	We need Jesus.
Lesson 3 (12/16)	John Prepares People for Jesus' Coming	Luke 3:7-18	1 John 1:9/ Isaiah 9:6	Repenting prepares us for Jesus.	We need to get ready for Jesus.
Lesson 4 (12/23)	The Son of God Is Born!	Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20	Isaiah 9:6/ Isaiah 9:6	Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.	Jesus was born.
Lesson 5 (12/30)	Jesus Grows Up	Luke 2:39-52	John 10:30/John 1:12	Jesus is special.	Jesus is special.
Lesson 6 (1/6)	The Word Became Flesh	John 1:1-18	John 1:12/John 1:12	People who know Jesus are God's children.	We are God's children.
Lesson 7 (1/13)	Satan Tempts Jesus	Luke 4:1-13	Hebrews 2:18/John 1:12	With Jesus' help we can resist temptation.	God helps us do what's right.
Lesson 8 (1/20)	Jesus Performs His First Miracle	John 2:1-11	John 20:31/Luke 19:10	Jesus did miracles to show us he is God.	Jesus can do miracles.
Lesson 9 (1/27)	Jesus Teaches in a Synagogue	Luke 4:14-21	Luke 19:10/Luke 19:10	Jesus came for all people.	Jesus helps us.
Lesson 10 (2/3)	Jesus Is Rejected in His Hometown	Luke 4:22-30	Deuteronomy 6:5/ Luke 19:10	Jesus deserves our love and gratitude.	Believe in Jesus.
Lesson 11 (2/10)	Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus	Luke 9:28-36	John 1:14/Luke 6:31	Jesus showed that he is God's Son.	Jesus Is God's Son.
Lesson 12 (2/17)	Jesus Teaches About Rewards	Luke 6:17-26	Colossians 3:2/Luke 6:31	Our lives should focus on what's important to God.	Put God first.
Lesson 13 (2/24)	Jesus Teaches About Loving Enemies	Luke 6:27-38	Luke 6:31/Luke 6:31	Jesus says to treat others as we want to be treated.	Jesus says love each other.

**For Infants through Kindergarten, Key Verses are repeated for a few weeks, so they won't always match Key Verses for all other age levels.*

Group

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